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Monitoring, assessment and reporting: progress on the development of global forest indicators

Note verbale dated 16 March 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to submit herewith the final report of the meeting of the organization-led initiative on the development of global forest indicators to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the international arrangement on forests strategic plan, which was held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 28 to 30 November 2016 (see annex).**

The meeting, organized by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, was an organization-led initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests and co-sponsored by the Government of Germany and the Government of Norway. It gathered together 89 experts from 48 countries and 17 international, regional and non-governmental organizations.

The Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations recommends the Secretary-General to include the report among the documentation for the twelfth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, to be held from 1 to 5 May 2017.

* E/CN.18/2017/1.

** The report is being circulated in the language of submission only.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 16 March 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Co-Chairs summary report of the meeting of the organization-led initiative on the development of global forest indicators to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the international arrangement on forests strategic plan, held in Rome from 28 to 30 November 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Organization-led Initiative on the development of global forest indicators to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the IAF Strategic Plan took place in Rome from 28 to 30 November 2016.

The participants considered that a global core set of forest-related indicators, covering indicators for sustainable forest management, indicators for progress towards the forest related SDGs, targets and other internationally agreed goals on forests, and other indicators relevant for the IAF Strategic Plan could be instrumental in streamlining reporting on forests and decreasing the reporting burden on countries. Such a global core set should address information needs of global forest related processes in a balanced way across the different sustainability dimensions, and include governance aspects addressing major forest-related issues. Participants reviewed a proposed core set: a list, revised in accordance with comments at the OLI is attached to the report of the OLI co-chairs. Participants noted that work on the proposed global core set of forest-related indicators should be aligned with the goals and targets of the IAF strategic plan which will be finalized in January 2017.

Participants agreed that the Forest Resources Assessment process plays a central role in collecting data. FRA is invited to address, with partners, data collection and definition methodological issues, including by continuing to strengthen the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire process initiated with several partners for FRA2015. Arrangements should be put in place to ensure that data are only collected once, and then shared between user agencies, and that common definitions and/or harmonization methods, should be agreed and applied. A task force under the auspices of the CPF should lead this process, ensuring coordination between data collection activities and the needs of the many users. After online consultation, and in-depth discussion of the indicators classified as "yellow" (important topic, but work needed on concepts and/or data), an expert consultation, led by FRA, but with a wider participation of both users and suppliers of policy relevant forest information, in mid 2017 would be an appropriate occasion to complete the consultation process on the proposed global core set, finalize the list of indicators, and agree on how the data should be collected. When the consultation process is complete the proposed core set should be brought to the attention of UNFF and other governing bodies to enable them to consider the potential use of the global core set in the various processes and help create an enabling environment for their use including through mandating their secretariats to engage actively in a harmonization/streamlining process.

SUMMARY OF THE OLI DISCUSSION

I. Introduction

1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contained therein will strongly influence global development actions over the next 15 years. Forests and their sustainable

management are core aspects of SDG15 on life on earth and its targets. Forests can contribute to achieving all of the SDGs and their associated targets. A robust follow-up and review mechanism for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires a solid framework of indicators and statistical data to monitor and assess progress, inform policy and ensure accountability. In March 2016, the UN Statistical Commission agreed on a global SDG indicator framework as a practical starting point. The indicator for the SDG target 15.2 on sustainable forest management was initially classified as Tier 3, indicating the need to further elaborate on it. Over the past year, an informal inter-agency group involving relevant CPF members and C&I processes has been working to provide possible contribution in this regard. In May 2016, an international workshop on strengthening collaboration on Criteria and Indicators (C&I) further confirmed the need for strengthening forest-related indicators globally.

2. ECOSOC Resolution 2015/33 "International arrangement on forests beyond 2015" called for the development of a strategic plan for the international arrangement on forests (IAF) for the period 2017– 2030 which should, among other things, incorporate the global objectives on forests (GOFs) and the forest-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The strategic plan will be considered by the Special Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) scheduled for January 2017. Furthermore, the resolution requested the secretariat of the Forum, in consultation with relevant bodies and partners, including the CPF and its members, to propose for consideration by the Forum at its next session a cycle and a format for national reporting and the enhancement of voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting on the progress made on the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument and its GOFs, as well as the forest related SDGs and targets under the IAF, taking into account and utilizing existing data collection mechanisms.

3. FAO's Committee on Forestry (COFO), in its 23rd Session in July 2016, invited countries to strengthen forest data collection, inter alia, to support monitoring progress towards SDG targets; and design national level forest related SDG indicators, using or further developing existing C&I before defining new ones. It further requested FAO to align its strategy for the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) as necessary towards the needs of SDG monitoring as well as to the reporting needs of other global forest processes. COFO also requested FAO continue working with the secretariats of CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, UNFF, ITTO, other members of the CPF, as well as other relevant international processes to improve and streamline global reporting on forests, with the aim of identifying synergies and reducing the reporting burden on countries.

4. In view of the above, the CPF organized an Organization-led Initiative (OLI) on the development of global forest indicators to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the IAF Strategic Plan. The purpose of the Organization-Led Initiative (OLI) was to enable an open, informal, transparent and informed discussion on a common and concise global core set of forest indicators supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the emerging IAF Strategic Plan.

The main objectives of the OLI were:

- to propose a common and concise set of global indicators for monitoring progress in achieving the forest-related targets of the SDGs and relevant goals and targets of other forest-related global processes;

- to provide inputs to the development of a proposal on cycle and format for reporting;

- to provide inputs and guidance to the process of developing FRA 2020 in order to ensure its continued relevance as a global source of forest information.

The outcome of the OLI should contribute to further streamlining global reporting on forests, including the ongoing work under UNFF on streamlined monitoring, assessment and reporting on the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument and its GOFs, as well as the forest related SDGs and targets.

5. **Co-sponsors**. The OLI was co-organized by members of the CPF, with generous financial support from the Governments of Germany and Norway.

6. **Steering Committee**. The steering committee for the preparation and organization of the OLI comprised the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

7. **Participants**. The OLI brought together 89 participants from 48 countries and from 17 international, regional and non-governmental organizations.

8. **Format**. The OLI included plenary and parallel (working group) sessions. The working groups were facilitated by representatives from the UNCCD, the United States of America and FAO, assisted by rapporteurs from Canada, UNECE, UNFF Secretariat and United States of America. The plenary session on 29/30 November was facilitated by a representative of ITTO.

9. **Opening**. The OLI was opened by the Chair of the Bureau of UNFF12, Peter Besseau. Eva Muller of FAO gave an opening statement and welcomed participants on behalf of FAO, also representing the CPF Chair. Welcoming remarks by the UNFF Secretariat were given by Afsa Kemitale on behalf of the Director.

10. **Co-chairs**: Eva Muller of FAO and Dr Chadi Mohanna, Director of Rural Development and Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Lebanon were elected as co-chairs of the OLI.

II. Summary of key points from the OLI discussions

A: Context and background

11. Four scene-setting presentations were given to set the scene for the OLI discussions.

- Pietro Gennari, Chief Statistician of FAO and chair of the UN Chief Statisticians, provided insight on the SDG reporting process and how global forest indicators can best support countries report on the SDGs. (http://www.cpfweb.org/45409-0f0aa5bc1e8ec6224d722078e6e2f9fe5.pdf)

- H.E. Hans Hoogeveen, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to FAO and Co-chair of the UNFF Ad hoc Expert Group (AHEG), informed participants about the progress achieved by the AHEG and on the implications of the IAF Strategic Plan and its goals and targets on global forest reporting. (http://www.cpfweb.org/45410-0c41647ea770af139da40354df799725e.pdf)

- Nancy Cespedes, Head of Natural Resources Department, Environment and Oceanic Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile and Zheng Zhong, Director, International Forestry Cooperation Center, State Forestry Administration of China, provided national perspectives on how the evolution of the global reporting and monitoring framework influences country activities, highlighted related difficulties, opportunities and reflected on possible useful support from the international community. (http://www.cpfweb.org/45413-018e4f0cdbba0ba917538e01161daf109.pdf; http://www.cpfweb.org/45412-0b22731838bd1b4d1814f451d96430fde.pdf)

12. The presentations and the ensuing discussion raised the following key points related to forest indicators:

(a) SDGs and global forest indicators: The global SDG indicator process provides a clear opportunity to demonstrate the contribution of forests to sustainable development. Several indicators address forests directly, in particular 15.1.1 (forest area), 15.2.1 (progress towards SFM) and 15.4.2 (mountain green cover index). Indicator 15.2.1, proposed by FAO and partners has recently been upgraded to a "Tier II" indicator, which opens the possibility to officially report globally and include a storyline in the next SDG report. However, FAO has been asked to submit a new proposal by mid-January, addressing issues raised on sub-components of 15.2.1 (number and combination of sub-indicators, limitations on forest certification for being considered a global SDG indicator). The OLI encouraged IAEG members to support the inclusion of 5 sub-indicators.

An overarching issue with regard to SDG indicators is the weak communication between national forest sector data suppliers and the National Statistics Offices (NSOs) who are responsible for coordinating responses on SDGs at the national level. It is critical for data suppliers on forest indicators to establish closer links with the NSOs.

Global SDG indicators are meant to serve as comparable metrics that all countries should report on, but they certainly can be complemented by additional thematic indicators to provide a more comprehensive assessment, keeping in mind the reporting burden on countries and the need for adequate processes of consultation.

(b) IAF and global forest indicators: The emerging UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 will further specify global Goals, aiming at a limited (maximum 5) number of targets under each Goal. The AHEG2 Co-Chairs' proposed Goals (October 2016) include the four Global Objectives on Forests of the UN Forest Instrument with slight amendments, as well as two possible additional goals addressing cross-cutting governance aspects and coordination aspects. It is proposed to consider the indicators in the context of on-going work on Global Forest Goals and targets. Depending on the nature of the Global Forest Goals of the IAF Strategic Plan the core set of indicators initially proposed by OLI should be adjusted so as to support the monitoring and assessment of the Global Forest Goals. As anticipated by the AHEG Co-chairs' proposal on the IAF Strategic Plan, countries could subsequently determine their voluntary contributions to the Global Forest Goals and targets.

Monitoring, assessment and reporting will be an integral part of the IAF Strategic Plan and includes contribution to the reporting and progress review process of the forest related SDGs. Indicators will thus be expected to provide information on baselines and measurement of progress.

(c) Global goals and targets build on country priorities and realities. One reality is that many countries face capacity constraints in implementing intended country actions, and are overloaded with reporting burdens. Streamlining of monitoring, assessment and reporting on global goals and targets of different global bodies is thus essential. A possible global core set of forest-related indicators could contribute to monitoring, assessment and reporting on forest related goals and targets of different global bodies. Such a global core set should be short, concise and simple and equally relevant at national and global levels, allowing measurement of progress in a coordinated way, respecting the mandates of the various organizations and processes.

B: Global indicators to measure progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the IAF Strategic Plan

13. Four thought starter presentations addressed the rationale for a possible global core set forest-related indicators, a research perspective on elements of global forest monitoring, linkages to SDG indicator 15.3.1 (proportion of degraded land), as well as Monitoring Assessment and Reporting under UNFF. This was followed by a

presentation of the proposed global core set of forest-related indicators. (http://www.cpfweb.org/92629/en/)

14. The subsequent discussion in working groups on the interlinked issues of possible components of a common set of global forest indicators and possible ways of developing such a common set resulted in the following main points:

(a) Possible components of a global core set of forest-related indicators covering indicators for SFM, indicators for progress towards the forest related SDGs, targets and other internationally agreed goals on forests, and other indicators relevant for the IAF Strategic Plan. Participants:

- welcomed the proposal to develop a global core set of forest-related indicators;
- suggested that the proposed global core set be limited to some 10-15 indicators that are relevant at global and national levels, considering capacities of countries to report and the need to clarify the main messages;
- suggested that such a set should address information needs of the global processes including the SDGs and IAF in a balanced way across the different sustainability dimensions, and include governance aspects;
- noted that any proposed global core set of forest-related indicators will have the SDG-related forest indicators, in particular 15.2.1, as a core element;
- requested that coverage of local community and socio-economic indicators be enhanced and strengthened (e.g. investment, financial resources, value of production, formal and informal employment, contribution of forest to poverty and hunger eradication);
- discussed the issue of including a certification related indicator in the global core set;
- provided specific feedback on individual indicators, including possible improvements, proposals for mergers, re-consideration;
- for some indicators ratios and percentages are appropriate, while for some others absolute values could be used. This concern should be addressed in the next phases of the process when finalizing the global core set of forest-related indicators.

(b) Possible ways of developing a global core set relevant at global and national levels. Participants of the OLI:

- noted that some indicators are readily available now, while others, in particular socio-economic indicators, are strategically important but still need to be developed and more time would be needed to further improve concepts and data collection mechanisms. It is thus proposed to classify indicators in a "traffic light" (green/yellow/red) system, to indicate their readiness and feasibility of use, and to allow inclusion of "ambitious" indicators requiring further work, which would be classified as "yellow", while indicators not recommended for further consideration would be marked as red.
- noted the tight timelines for providing input to the further development of SDG 15.2.1 (by mid-January) and providing input to developing goals and targets of the IAF Strategic Plan by mid-December;
- noted that the proposed set of indicators might be amended, taking into account the goals and targets under the Strategic Plan adopted by the special session of UNFF in January 2017;
- proposed that an online consultation be set up for countries and key stakeholders to reflect on the proposed of global core set;
- proposed that a task force be established to further develop and revise the proposed global core set of forest-related indicators, considering comments received;

- proposed that the revised global core set be finalized at an expert consultation including both users and suppliers of information.

C: Data collection and availability

15. Six short thought starter presentations were given, covering the role of Forest Resources Assessment (FRA); the role, opportunities and challenges of remote sensing; the role of C&I and other regional processes; reflecting socio-economic and governance issues in forest indicators as well as capacity building aspects and the role of science. (A special presentation was made at a side event on the Mountain Green Cover Index, explaining the concept and methodology for this SDG indicator.) (http://www.cpfweb.org/92629/en/)

16. The subsequent working group discussion on data collection and availability resulted in the following main points:

(a) The role of FRA, C&I processes and remote sensing data

Participants of the OLI

- noted that the FRA plays a central role in collecting data, being broadly inclusive, with engagement of science, and a training and capacity building component.
- proposed to continue and expand the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ), taking into account lessons learned in its use for FRA 2015.
- proposed to build on the collaboration established between FAO and the C&I processes in the context of CFRQ and involve new partners as required.
- suggested that the upcoming expert consultation on FRA in mid 2017 could be used to expand the number of partners involved and further develop the CFRQ to cover a global core set of forest-related indicators to the extent possible.
- noted that remote sensing (RS) can be useful to assess and monitor a limited subset of proposed indicators and can therefore become an integral component of forest data collection. Experience, capacities, technical issues and data uncertainties still vary considerably across the globe. Further work and especially capacity development is needed to make RS an integral component of measuring and reporting progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the IAF Strategic Plan. However, it is foreseen to increase the use of RS in the next FRA.

(b) Socio-economic and governance data, capacity building aspects and the role of science

Participants of the OLI

a) re-iterated the need to better cover the socio-economic contributions of forests in a global core set of forest-related indicators and indicated areas for which more and better data are needed (jobs and employment, including informal jobs);

b) provided specific feedback and suggestions to individual indicator proposals;

c) proposed some indicators for consideration (forest contribution to hunger and poverty eradication, forest industry contribution, payments for ecosystem services);

d) noted that many countries need support to further strengthen capacity and data collection mechanisms;

e) suggested that a specific workshop on socio-economic and governance indicators be organized in the context of preparation of FRA 2020.

D: Streamlining monitoring, assessment and reporting

17. Participants discussed issues and options for aligning reporting cycles, and formats and for other means of creating enabling environments for consistent reporting; and advise CPF on key elements of its supporting role. The following key points emerged from the discussion. Participants of the OLI:

- noted that multiple timelines are to be considered for reporting, including
    - annual reporting for the 2030 Agenda, quadrennial Sustainable Development Reports
    - IAF progress report,
    - UNFCCC reporting under the transparency framework for Paris Agreement
    - CBD COPs, Global Biodiversity Outlook
    - UNCCD strategy and vision for 2018-2030
    - FRA 2020
- noted the need to further develop elements of a streamlined monitoring system that makes it possible to use the same data for different reporting purposes (core set of indicators with clear specifications and definitions, consortium of partners with clear distribution of labour, modalities that allow transparency to all suppliers and users of information) and suggested that a small group/task force be established to set up detailed plan to work on this matter;
- suggested that an interagency group of active partners is established under the auspices of CPF to lead the work, using the experience of FAO/FRA, UNFF, regional C&I processes and their networks and work closely with partners specialized in specific indicators.

18. The following time lines were discussed for developing and finalizing the global core set of forest-related indicators and subsequent data collection,

- Dec 2016/June 2017: consultation and sharing the OLI report with UNFF Working Group, SDG/IAEG, Rio Conventions;
- Mid 2017: agreement on definitions, who does what, data review and sharing, timing,
- 2017-2019 Data collection, review and revision. Data verification for FRA complete by end 2019

Key outcomes and follow-up

1. The proposed global core set of forest-related indicators to measure progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the IAF Strategic Plan

a) A global core set of forest-related indicators, covering indicators for SFM, indicators for progress towards the forest related SDGs, targets and other internationally agreed goals on forests, including these contained in the IAF Strategic Plan could be instrumental in streamlining reporting on forests and decreasing the reporting burden on countries. Such a global core set should cover information needs in a balanced way across the different sustainability dimensions, and include governance aspects addressing major forest-related issues.

b) The global core set should include the components of the main SDG-related forest indicators, in particular 15.2.1, as a central element, as well as address the requirements of the IAF Strategic Plan, while addressing other major forest-related issues.

c) Likewise, the global core set should be aligned with the goals and targets of the IAF Strategic Plan.

d) Experts present at the OLI suggested that the global core set be limited to some 10-15 indicators that are relevant at global and national levels, considering the needs of global forest related processes and the capacities of countries to report and recognizing that other indicators at the local and sub-national levels could be used to strengthen reporting.

e) Coverage of socio-economic indicators should be strengthened and capacity building needs considered.

f) The indicators should be as simple as possible, and users should be aware of the possibility that ratios could be misleading.

g) The participants reviewed in detail all the proposed indicators, and suggested changes. The OLI used a "traffic light" system and classified the proposed indicators as "green" (ready for implementation/ only minor issues to address), "yellow" (topic important, work needed) or "red" (not supported or no further development at this time). The list, revised in accordance with comments made during the OLI, is attached. Of the original 21 indicators proposed, nine were classified "green", eleven "yellow" and one "red"., As background for future work, the table includes a brief summary of the issues raised by the OLI in plenary and working groups.

2. Data collection and availability

a) The FRA process plays a central role in collecting data to measure progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the IAF Strategic Plan, and has been formally mandated by COFO[1] to address these issues, along with partners. FRA is invited to address, with partners, data collection for the global core set of forest-related indicators and address definition and methodological issues to help operationalize them, and continue and expand the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) as well as its collaboration with C&I processes and other key partners, who may be users or suppliers of the data required.

b) Participants noted that remote sensing (RS) can be useful to assess and monitor a limited subset of proposed indicators and can therefore become an important component of forest data collection. Further work is needed to make RS an integral component of measuring and reporting progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the IAF Strategic Plan.

c) It is essential to enhance the availability of socio-economic data on the contributions of forests to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Goals and targets of the IAF Strategic Plan. This will require reinforced efforts to establish methodologies and enhance data availability and quality. The need for capacity building should also be considered.

3. Streamlining monitoring, assessment and reporting

a) Arrangements should be put in place to ensure that data are only collected once, and then shared between user agencies, and that common definitions, and/or harmonization methods, based, to the extent possible, on previous practice, should be agreed and applied, to reduce the reporting burden on countries and facilitate analysis.

b) A small interagency group of active partners (data users and suppliers), working under the auspices of the CPF, should coordinate the process, basing the work on the proposed core set of forest related indicators agreed by the OLI, and taking account of the needs (coverage and timing) of data users, notably Agenda 2030 and the IAF, as well as other processes and instruments, and opinions expressed by stakeholders in an online consultation process. The CPF could consider implementing this work in the form of a Joint Initiative.

c) It is important to ensure that there is widespread consultation on the indicator list, which should be completed in summer 2017, so that data can be made available before 2020.

[1] COFO/2016/REP paragraph 17. a), f)

d) Given the generally long intervals between forest inventories, arrangements should be made (following recent FRA practice) to provide interpolated data when necessary for agencies with an annual or biennial cycle.

e) Given the relation between indicators and targets, the proposed set of forest related indicators should be adjusted to include indicators related to the global forest goals and targets of the IAF Strategic Plan. It should support the process of setting goals and targets, notably by advising the IAF process on data availability and ensuring that the data collection partnership is in a position to supply the information needed to monitor progress towards the targets (definitions, baselines and objective measurement of progress).

f) Many countries already find the reporting burden, for forests and other sectors, heavy: despite efforts to streamline reporting, there is an issue of insufficient capacity, which must be addressed by the international community.

4. Next steps

a) FAO, in consultation with CPF members and participants of the informal interagency working group should revise the proposal for SDG indicator 15.2.1, addressing concerns expressed by the IAEG, taking account of the tight deadlines of the IAEG. The consultations on indicator 15.2.1 should continue in parallel to the development of the proposed global core set of forest-related indicators and a discussion on the indicator should take place at the FRA expert consultation to take place in mid-2017. The OLI noted that the sub-indicators proposed for 15.2.1 did not cover all dimensions of sustainable forest management but represented an acceptable simplification for the needs of the SDG indicator process.

b) As the process to monitor Agenda 2030 is led by national statistical offices who must validate methods and national reporting, it is desirable that forest sector information suppliers, notably national forest inventories, work closely with their national statistical offices to coordinate positions and improve mutual understanding.

c) The following steps were agreed by the OLI:

a. The CPF will establish a task force, preferably within the framework of a Joint Initiative, to develop a revised core set of indicators, with particular emphasis on those labeled "yellow" by the OLI, taking into account the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan. The task force will prepare improved proposals for the expert consultation described below.

b. An online consultation of partners, countries and stakeholders will be organized in the first half of 2017.

c. The IAEG on the SDGs will review the SFM indicators, including a revised version for 15.2.1, in 2017.

d. The outcome of the OLI will be brought to the attention of UNFF Working Group in January 2017 and will be submitted to the UN Secretary General for inclusion in the UNFF12 documentation.

e. The UNFF expert consultation on reporting requirements will take place in February 2017, and will have the report of the OLI, including the proposed global core set of forest indicators at its disposal.

f. The CPF task force will integrate the outcomes of the IAEG and the special session of UNFF into the revised set for the expert consultation.

g. An expert consultation, led by the FRA, but with wider participation, including both users and suppliers of policy relevant forest information , will review the core set and finalize the list of indicators in mid 2017. It will identify:

i. the indicators to be measured through FRA, mostly by the CFRQ;

ii. the process to collect information on indicators which will not be collected by FRA.

d) Members of the CPF as well as regional C&I processes should be invited to participate actively in the consensus formation process for the proposed global core set of forest related indicators. Each partner would have to decide how the set –or components of it – can be used under the terms of its own mandate.

e) Throughout the process, due attention should be given to the appropriate involvement of major groups and other stakeholders as observers.

f) When the consultation process is complete the proposals should be brought to the attention of UNFF and other governing bodies to enable them to consider the potential use of the global core set in the various processes and help create an enabling environment for their use including through mandating their secretariats to engage actively in a harmonization/streamlining process.

g) Countries may wish to ensure through internal collaboration among relevant government agencies that the global core set is recognized and that consistent messages be sent to the governing bodies regarding its use.

5. Closing

Participants expressed their appreciation for holding the event and noted the good progress made and welcomed the results. They thanked in particular the Governments of Germany and Norway for their generous support.

Attachment

Proposed global core set of forest-related indicators, incorporating the comments of the OLI

Set out below is the core set of 21 indicators, as proposed to the OLI, with the OLI's suggested classification. Agreed wording changes, as well as alternative concepts have been incorporated into the set. The main issues raised in the OLI plenary and working groups are briefly summarised.

The classification agreed by the OLI is as follows:

GREEN: Concept and data availability broadly satisfactory, although some issues may exist, and are reflected below. Definitely maintain in the list, possibly with minor modifications.

YELLOW: More work is needed on concepts, definition or methodology. May be converted to Green or Red

RED: Remove from the core set

Note: indicators in ***bold italic*** are those included in the proposed indicators/sub-indicators to be used for SDG 15.2.1, as put before the IAEG in November 2016. These will be modified, as requested by the IAEG. It is important that the exact same wording be used in the SDG 15.2.1 (sub)indicators and the indicators in the core set, so these may have to be modified in the light of decisions in the IAEG.

	Indicator	Classification	Issues raised at OLI
1	***Forest area net change rate (%/year)***	GREEN	
2	***Proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas (%)***	GREEN	Other protection than "legally" should be considered, perhaps referring to the IUCN Protected Area categories
3	Forest health and vitality: % of forest area disturbed	YELLOW	Difficult to combine data on different types of disturbance Define list of types of disturbance Exclude harvesting Differentiate from 12 on degraded forest
4	***Above-ground biomass stock in forest (tonnes/ha)***	GREEN	Overharvesting/degradation/damage will result in reduced biomass/ha, so this is a powerful sustainability indicator In some cases higher biomass/ha may be negative (increased fuel load for fires)

	Indicator	Classification	Issues raised at OLI
5	Protective functions of forest resources: Mountain Green Cover Index (forest component) OR Forest area designated and managed for protection of soil and water	YELLOW	Only indicator addressing protective functions of forests (thematic element) MGCI does not address protective functions of forests outside mountain areas Multiple functions make it hard to identify forests "designated and managed" for protection
6	Number of forest related jobs per 1000 ha of forest	YELLOW	Should be at least one socioeconomic indicator on jobs. Significance of changes in this indicator not clear (productivity v. job creation) Denominator (ha of forest) not appropriate Explore ideas of parity, revenue, fatalities
7	Existence of policies supporting sustainable forest management, including formal protection of existing forest, or definition of a permanent forest estate in countries where this is necessary, with the institutions and resources necessary to implement these policies	GREEN	Governance indicator. Concepts already used in FRA 2015 Reword for increased clarity and concision
8	Existence of a recent, scientifically sound, national forest inventory	GREEN	Governance indicator. Concept already used in FRA 2015
9	Existence of a national multi-stakeholder policy platform, with active participation of civil society, indigenous peoples and the private sector	GREEN	Governance indicator. Concept already used in FRA 2015
10	***Proportion of forest area under a long term forest management plan (%)***	GREEN	Governance indicator. Concept already used in FRA 2015
11	***Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme (ha)***	YELLOW	Concept already used in FRA 2015 Concern in IAEG that certification not an official policy instrument Not all sustainably managed forest is certified – indicator could lead to misunderstanding

	Indicator	Classification	Issues raised at OLI
12	Percentage change in area of degraded forest	YELLOW	Included in GOFs Problems defining and measuring forest degradation Differentiate from 3 on disturbance
13	Percentage change in the number of forest dependent people OR Livelihoods of forest dependent people	YELLOW	Included in GOFs Problems in defining/measuring "forest dependent" people, "livelihoods" Significance for sustainability of the indicator?
14	Percentage change in official development assistance for sustainable forest management	GREEN	Included in GOFs Data available
15	Financial resources from all sources (except ODA) for the implementation of sustainable forest management ($/ha of forest)	YELLOW	Included in GOFs Need to define "all sources" (include revenue from forest management, private investment, public budgets etc.)
16	Volume of wood harvested per 1000 forest workers (m3/1000 workers)	YELLOW	Addresses efficiency in use of factors of production (green economy). Significance (workers more productive in developed countries, because of capital)? Informal workers?
17	Share of wood based energy in total primary energy consumption, of which in modern clean systems (%)	YELLOW	Significance not fully clear (traditional wood energy v. clean wood-based renewable energy)
18	Recovery rates for paper and solid wood products (volume recovered for re-use as % of volume consumed)	RED	Considered outside scope of SFM, as not subject to SFM policy instruments
19	Carbon stocks and carbon stock changes in forest land: net forest GHG sink/source of forests, forest carbon stock, carbon storage in harvested wood products (Tons C)	GREEN	Too many elements in indicator. Needs better focus to clarify significance

	Indicator	Classification	Issues raised at OLI
20	Proportion of traded/consumed forest products derived from illegal logging or trade (%) OR Existence of a robust system to track sustainably produced forest products	YELLOW	Topic important, necessary to monitor success of new policy instruments. Measurement of illegal activity clearly challenging
21	Value of payments for ecosystem services (PES) related to forests (value of payments, as ratio to total forest area or area of forest covered by such PES)	YELLOW	Concepts not yet defined Measurement problems, especially for small PES schemes Better to use value rather than number of schemes.